GATE TO KEEP OUT CATTLE.

Sir,—Although I do not know whether the subject of the inclosed sketch is within the scope of your most useful and excellent publication, I venture to send it you, thinking that it may be novel to many, if not to most, of your readers.

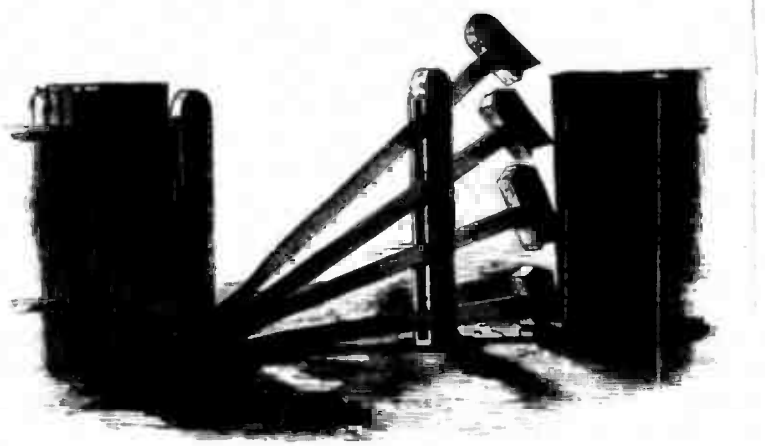
In the summer of 1845, during a short visit to Ireland, I saw in the grounds of a friend at Bray, near Dublin, a gate, which so pleased, and I may say amused me, from the quaintness of its construction, that I made a sketch of it; and on my return home I had a gate made on a similar construction, leading into a shrubbery walk I was then forming here, where it has excited some wonder and admiration, and goes by the name of the Irish gate, although I have since heard that there are similar gates in some parts of England.

The drawing represents the gate when open, the rails moving in grooves cut through the posts upon pivots in one of them, and their ends being fixed in a third, which is divided between each rail by a chevron, cut so that each piece fits on to that below it. To pass through the gate, the hand being placed on the upper rail, presses it with the lower rails down, when the gate assumes the form shewn in the drawing, which is easily stepped over, the pressure being withdrawn, the parts of the third post, being formed of oak or some heavy wood, fall into each other, and the gate is self closed against cattle, which of course is its principal use, as in some respects it is less useful than a common gate, because it does not admit the passage of a harrow, or any thing that cannot be lifted over the rails when lowered.

If any of your readers should be induced to have one of these gates constructed, I should recommend the cuts in the third post, to be made upwards, as in the drawing, instead of downwards, or valley shaped, as my gate is, to avoid the lodgment of water; and from side to side, instead of from front to back, which will give greater firmness, and prevent a degree of oscillation, to which my gate is subject.

I remain, Sir, &c., Geo. R. Corner.
Eltham, Kent.

GATE TO KEEP OUT CATTLE.



ARCHITECTS AND ARCHITECTURE IN PARIS.

M. Caillat, architect, author of a fine work upon the Hotel de Ville of Paris, has received the riband of the Legion of Honour.——M. Victor Baltard, late a *pensionnaire* of the French Academy at Rome, is about to publish a fine work under the title of "*La Villa Médicis à Rome.*" It will consist of six parts, of large size, each containing three or four plates, and one or two leaves of text.——The chapel of the Virgin, in the church of St. Germain l'Auxerrois, has been cleared of the scaffoldings erected for the construction of the altar, and the execution of paintings in fresco and encaustic, by M. Amaury Dewal. The altar and the parts adjacent, ornamented with rich sculptures, and wholly painted, were executed from the designs of M. Lassus, architect, who was charged with the direction of the work by the Minister of the Interior. The statue of the Virgin is a piece of sculpture belonging to the fourteenth century, which was brought here from Champagne.——The principal architectural works, in the present *Exposition* at the Louvre, appear to relate to the restoration of ancient buildings ——For this purpose, and the maintenance of the cathedrals and churches, repairs of royal palaces, &c., according to the *Moniteur des Architectes*, fifteen millions of francs will be asked for by the Government! ——For a long time it has been thought, that an architect who had superintended any building whatever was responsible personally, or conjointly with the contractor, for defects in it which might become apparent in construction or otherwise; but the *Cour de Cassation* has recently decided to the contrary, and henceforth architects in France will be freed from a responsibility which has in some cases been of serious consequence to them.—— M. Visconti will probably be the architect employed in the reconstruction of the *Bibliothèque Royale.*—— Four statues in stone, of large size, executed by M. Petitot, have been placed on the bridge of the *Saints-Pères.* They represent the city of Paris, the Seine, Industry, and Abundance. Our authority inquires, why allegory was resorted to? and suggests, justly, that statues of Ducerceau, Philibert Delorme, Jean Goujon, and Perrault, might have been substituted in that locality with advantage.——Paris is losing its venerable and pleasant air of antiquity; old houses are being pulled down, new streets are being formed, and great *improvements* are everywhere being effected, at the expense of picturesque appearance and pleasant associations. It would be a departure from our duty to deplore this, but we cannot yield without a sigh, the few remnants of former days which Time has left us.

SANITARY STATE OF LONDON.

Dr. Lynch and some of the inhabitants of Farringdon Without waited on the Lord Mayor last Tuesday, to urge the immediate adoption of sanitary measures. In the course of his address the doctor said:—Of all the thirty-six metropolitan districts, the ward of Farringdon Without is perhaps the worst, as to its narrow localities. The houses are built back to back, and admit no ventilation. The privies are situate under the staircases, and communicate with cesspools of the most horrible description, which poison the air and pollute the dwellings of the poor. In such places where there are sewers, they become the source of disease, in consequence of the want of traps and an adequate supply of water to cleanse and to facilitate the escape of pestiferous gases from the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter. In Crown-court, within a few yards of Fleet-street, the cellars of the houses are in a most revolting condition, from the overflowing of cesspools and the accumulation of impurities of every description. In some instances we found that the dust-contractors had not removed the offal from one to nine months, and that they refused to perform that duty unless they received a gratuity. We found the poor inhabitants sensible of the injury which such abomination inflicted, and heard them complain of the inadequate supply of water, which visited them for no more than one hour three times a week, and which their poverty prevented them from keeping vessels to save. They complained, too, of the quality of the water, confined as it was in heated rooms and absorbing the animal exhalations and foul air. We found that the drains run under a stack of houses, instead of into the main sewer, and there is at present no power to compel the landlords to open these drains direct to the sewer, by which arrangement an essential cause of malaria and disease would be removed. The inquest of St. Sepulchre beg to state that the courts around Smithfield and the Old Bailey are undrained; that in several of the courts there is but one privy, to which the inhabitants of both sexes and all ages resort, to the great detriment of common decency and morality; that the houses in such places are a disgrace to the sanitary supervision of the city of London; that the operation of the window-tax is seriously injurious to the poor; that all the remonstrances of previous inquests have been neglected; that there is no proper authority or board which understands the subject in its magnitude to be found in the city; that in several places the cesspools overflow the cellars; that in some cellars under the privies eight people lodged in a space twelve feet square; and that cow-sheds, slaughter-houses, and knackers' yards are suffered to exist in the midst of a crowded population. The gentlemen of the inquest, after enumerating other horrors, and showing that the wretched habitations are full of plague-vapours, express their fear that if sultry weather supervene, fever will make awful ravages amongst the poor. They find that every steamer which arrives from Ireland imports immense numbers of the poor Irish direct from Cork, where malignant typhus and dysentery abound, and are carrying off all classes of the community.

After showing the effect of scarcity of provisions in lowering the system and predisposing it for disease, the speaker urged the mayor to assist them in procuring a constant supply of water, and the immediate cleansing of such places; and entreated his lordship to name an early day for the consideration of the subject of the public health, included in the memorial of the ward, urging the corporation to adopt sanitary measures for the benefit of the poor. They suggested the propriety of calling a common council as soon as possible to apply to parliament for a short bill empowering the city authorities to enforce the abolition of cesspools and similar nuisances, which are of mortal injury to the community, to compel landlords to trap and open the drains of every house into the sewer, and to appoint an inspector who should take care that this law was enforced.

After statements by Mr. Alderman Hughes and others, bearing testimony to the facilities afforded by the Commissioners of Sewers,

The Lord Mayor said he certainly thought the public were greatly indebted to the gentlemen who had brought so important a subject before him, and he assured them that so far as he could render any service to the cause, he should be completely at their command. He was glad to find that justice was so willingly yielded to the Commissioners of Sewers. He knew how warm they were in the just cause of sanitary regulation; but they could not, he declared, do what was necessary by compelling landlords to make drains from their houses to the common sewers. For the purpose of giving to the deputation an opportunity of accomplishing the object, he should appoint Monday next for holding a court for the discussion of the merits of the petition of the ward.

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